

The applicant respectfully requests the examiner's withdrawal of this rejection. The reason for this request is that on September 26, 1996 the patent office issued an office action rejecting substantially all of the claims based on the same Ryan reference 5,524,051.

In response to this rejection, the applicant submitted declarations by the inventors, Mr. Carl Cooper and Mr. Steve Anderson, antedating the Ryan patent and thus removing this reference from consideration. In view of these affidavits, which have been accepted by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, it is believed that the second rejection on an antedated reference was inadvertently made and should be withdrawn. For the examiner's convenience, the applicant attaches hereto the antedated affidavits without exhibits.

In that Ryan U.S. 5,524,051 is not a reference against the present application, the applicant respectfully requests the examiner's reconsideration of the office action issued April 15, 1998.

In that these remarks are believed to place the application into condition for allowance, favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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